

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-4. (previously canceled)

5. (previously amended) An electronic database used as a depository for electronic documents generated during E-commerce transactions, comprising:

means for automatically receiving an electronic document dynamically generated from information provided during an E-commerce transaction that has completed;

means for generating a document identifier (ID) for said received E-commerce generated electronic document;

means for storing said E-commerce generated electronic document with said document ID; and

means for transmitting said document ID to each party to said E-commerce transaction that produced said electronic document.

6. (previously canceled)

7. (previously amended) The electronic database of Claim 5, wherein said means for storing further comprises:

means for allowing a later read access to said E-commerce generated electronic document by a party to said E-commerce transaction; and

means for preventing modifications to said E-commerce generated electronic document after said document has been stored.

8-10. (previously canceled)

11. (previously amended) A depository for ensuring authenticity of electronic documents generated during E-commerce transactions, said depository comprising:

means for enabling automatic receipt of an electronic document that is dynamically generated in response to a completion of an E-commerce transaction in which information utilized to generate said electronic document is provided;

means for generating a document identifier (ID) to identify said E-commerce generated electronic document; and

means for storing said E-commerce generated electronic document in said depository along with said document ID that is utilized to reference and retrieve said electronic document from said depository.

12. (original) The depository of Claim 11, wherein said storing means includes:

means for limiting a write access of said electronic document to a first access; and

means for restricting subsequent access to said electronic document to read-only access, such that no changes may be made to said electronic document once it has been stored.

13. (previously amended) The depository of Claim 11, further including:

means for controlling a read and write access to said electronic depository, wherein said electronic document is stored in a write-once, read-many format;

means for providing said document ID to each party of the E-commerce transaction; and

means for later retrieving said electronic document for read access by a party to said E-commerce transaction utilizing said document ID.

14. (previously amended) The depository of Claim 13 wherein said controlling means further includes:

means for enabling a non-modification function for said electronic document, wherein a control code of said electronic depository is activated to prevent later modification to said electronic document; and

means for flagging each E-commerce generated electronic document stored within said electronic depository to allow only a later read access to said E-commerce generated electronic document by a party to said E-commerce transaction.

15-18. (previously canceled)

19. (previously added) The electronic database of Claim 5, further comprising:
means for connecting said electronic database to a server at which said E-commerce transactions are conducted; and
means for enabling communication between said server and said electronic database via said connecting means.

20. (previously added) The depository of Claim 11, further comprising:
means for connecting said depository to a server at which said E-commerce transactions are conducted; and
means for enabling communication between said server and said depository via said connecting means.